

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:BG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

OES/OFA - TSCULLY (IN DRAFT)

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R 202238Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 249115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, UR, US

SUBJECT: VASEV CALL ON ARMITAGE: FISHERIES

1. DURING OCTOBER 17 CALL ON ARMITAGE, SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER COUNSELOR VASEV ASKED IF RECENTLY PASSED HOUSE BILL, WHICH AIMS AT EXTENDING U.S. FISHING ZONE TO 200 MILES, HAD AFFECTED ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON FISHERIES. VASEV PARTICULARLY WANTED TO KNOW IF THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN U.S. COOPERATIVE APPROACH AND WORK WITH SOVIET DELEGATION AT LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS.

2. ARMITAGE RESPONDED THAT U.S. IS CONCERNED WITH DEPLETION OF FISHING STOCKS OFF OUR COASTS AND IS NOT SATISFIED WITH SLOW PROGRESS BEING MADE TO CORRECT THIS
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SITUATION. THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSES THE HOUSE BILL

AND SIMILAR LEGISLATION, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED BY SENATE IN EARLY DECEMBER. HOWEVER, WE ARE INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS TO EFFECT A TRANSITION TO AN EVENTUAL 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE, HAVING IN MIND THE CLEAR CONSENSUS WHICH IS EMERGING AT LOS CONFERENCE FOR

ESTABLISHMENT OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. U.S. WISHES TO CONTINUE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH USSR AT LOS CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, U.S. BELIEVES ATLANTIC FISHERIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH EXPIRES THIS DECEMBER, HAS WORKED WELL, BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND MODIFIED TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD ADMINISTRATION'S OBJECTIVE OF CONSERVING COASTAL FISH STOCKS. U.S. WILL BE ADOPTING SAME APPROACH WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH HAS FISHERIES AGREEMENTS, AS THEY EXPIRE. SINCE BOTH SIDES HAVE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, WE WILL AGREE TO EXTEND U.S.-SOVIET AGREEMENT TEMPORARILY UNTIL EARLY 1976. ARMITAGE SAID WE WOULD ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH SOVIETS SHORTLY ON NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

3. VASEV EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SENATE WOULD ALSO TAKE ACTION ON 200-MILE FISHERIES BILL DURING NEXT SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE. ARMITAGE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEW YORK SESSION OF CONFERENCE WOULD SHOW GOOD PROGRESS AND VASEV AGREED WITH THIS POINT OF VIEW. INGERSOLL

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